

Soldiers work to rout AIF out of Al Doura

By Spc. Alexis Harrison
2-1 Cav. Public Affairs

FORWARD OPERATING BASE FALCON, Iraq - It doesn't rain often in Iraq. When it does, the ground turns to a sloppy mess of mud that attaches itself to anything it comes in contact.

Despite being rained on and covered in mud up to their ankles, Soldiers from the 2nd Battalion, 12th Infantry Regiment, attached to the 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, braved more than the weather to make sure "Operation Gladiator" was a success. Not just for them, but for the locals counting on the businesses and shops to reopen.

The operation centered its effort in the Al Doura marketplace in central Baghdad.

Dozens of roadside bombs, mortar attacks and small-arms fire fights have erupted in the same area where hundreds of businesses used to be. According to their battalion

commander, Lt. Col. Stephan Michael, the market used to be a place where business flourished until sectarian violence dispersed the locals living and working there. He said that his battalion's mission is as simple as taking the area back from anti-Iraqi forces and bring it back to life.

"Right now it's an abandoned area," Michael said. "It's been an area thought to harbor insurgents. There have been more than 20 IEDs found and 15 murders there just since we've been here. We're hoping to root out the insurgents and establish security."

The Soldiers left Forward Operating Base Falcon while a driving rain poured into the hatches on their Humvees.

Their first stop was at the INP Headquarters, whose policeman accompanied the troops on missions. While staging their vehicles, mortars

See **Market** Page 3



(Photo by Spc. Alexis Harrison, 2-1 Cav. Public Affairs)

A Soldier from the 2nd Battalion, 2nd BCT, 2nd Inf. Div. uses a high-speed saw to cut through a lock on a building in the Al Doura market in Baghdad Dec. 23.

Iraqi troops train with the help of military transition teams on Taji

By Sgt. Jon Cupp
1-1 Cav. Public Affairs

CAMP TAJI, Iraq - New basic training graduates with the 3rd Battalion, 2nd Brigade, 9th Iraqi Army Division (Mechanized) trained with the assistance of Military Transition Teams from the 1st Infantry Division here Dec. 19 on how to conduct cordon and searches. The training

consisted of the IA troops performing practice raids in two building "mock-ups."

According to Capt. Eric James, operations officer and advisor for the 329th MiTT, the training lasts three to four weeks and readies the Iraqi troops before they have to encounter the challenges of working in actual urban environments and checkpoints.

"We're taking new Iraqi soldiers

before they get assigned to a company and giving them additional training," said James, a native of El Paso, Texas. "What we're doing is getting together with our Iraqi Army brothers and giving them this training prior to their going out into their areas of operations."

In addition, the training, which has

See **Training** Page 3

New Year is coming up roses for Horse Cavalry Detachment

By Sgt. Colby Hauser
1st Cav. Div. Public Affairs

FORT HOOD, Texas - The 1st Cavalry Division's Horse Cavalry Detachment is slated to perform at the 118th Tournament of Roses Parade, January 1, 2007 in Pasadena, Calif. and Equestfest.

The Horse Detachment was established in January 1972 when the 1st Cavalry Division Association voted to sponsor a Horse Platoon and ten horses were procured from the Army Pentathlon Team in San Antonio, Texas. Their first show - a parade - took place in San Angelo, Texas, that same year. By the end of 1972, the herd had grown to 18 mounts and in 1973 they added two mules and an 1878 Escort Wagon to their inventory.

The Detachment performed its first mounted demonstration in 1974 using six riders and mounts. Throughout the 1970's the Detachment continued to grow, although individual Soldiers were still donating a lot of their personal time, supplies, and money to make the unit function. All that began to change when the U.S. Army recognized the Horse Platoon as a Special Ceremonial Unit and took over financial oversight of the unit. Today the Detachment is the only permanently-



(Photo by Sgt. Colby Hauser, 1st Cav. Div. Public Affairs)

Shown here concluding a 1st Cavalry Division ceremony on the division's parade field at Fort Hood with a traditional cavalry charge, the division's Horse Cavalry Detachment will be participating in the Tournament of Roses Parade New Year's Day in Pasadena, Calif., for the second year in a row.

staffed and independently-funded mounted cavalry unit on Active Duty in the United States Army.

The Detachment is currently comprised of two commissioned officers (commander and executive officer), 38 enlisted Soldiers and one Department of Army civilian.

The 1st Cavalry Division is currently deployed to Iraq and serving as Multinational Division - Baghdad in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom 6-8. For more information on America's First Team and the Horse Cavalry Detachment, please visit the division's website at www.hood.army.mil/1stcavdiv/.

Arabic Phrase of the Day

fitah

**Defined:
open**

Iraq 3-Day Weather Report



Today

High: 51
Low: 28



Tomorrow

High: 52
Low: 28



Monday

High: 54
Low: 30

Commanding General: Maj. Gen. Joseph F. Fil, Jr.
Public Affairs Officer: Lt. Col. Scott Bleichwehl
Command Information Supervisor: Master Sgt. Dave Larsen
NCOIC, Print Production: Staff Sgt. Mary Rose
Editor: Sgt. Michael Garrett
Staff Writers: Sgt. Nicole Kojetin, Spc. L.B. Edgar, Pfc. Jeffrey Ledesma, Pfc. Ben Gable, Pfc. Shea Butler, Pfc. William Hatton
Contributing Writers: Sgt. Jon Cupp, Spc. Alexis Harrison

Contact the *Daily Charge* at VOIP 242-4093, DSN 318-847-2855 or e-mail david.j.larsen@mnd-b.army.mil.

The Daily Charge is an authorized publication for members of the U.S. Army. Contents of the *Daily Charge* are not necessarily official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government, Department of Defense, Department of the Army or the 1st Cavalry Division. All editorial content of the *Daily Charge* is prepared, edited, provided and approved by the 1st Cavalry Division Public Affairs Office.

Iraqis receive 'train the trainer' instruction from MiTT

Training

From Page 1

been referred to as 'train the trainer' style instruction, allows the MiTT team's subject matter experts to assist Iraqi noncommissioned officers and warrant officers to give blocks of instruction - all the while junior enlisted Iraqis are training simultaneously.

"The better they do their training, the better they can take over their own security, said Lewis.

"We're trying to push them forward, essentially putting them in the lead when it comes to planning, resourcing and execution for missions and training," he said.

Prior to coming to Iraq, Staff Sgt. Michael Lewis, a combat medical advisor and trainer for 329th MiTT, trained in Fort Riley, Kan. to learn how to instruct Soldiers in doing infantry-style tactics. A medic and a native of Leesville, La., Lewis is now training Iraqi soldiers alongside his Iraqi noncommissioned officer counterparts.

"Working here, we're getting to see the infantry side, and it's an important role, but it's just one part of all the training to help



(Photo by Sgt. Jon Cupp, 1-1 Cav. Public Affairs)

Through the use of an interpreter (second from the right), Staff Sgt. Michael Lewis (upper left), a trainer for the 329th MiTT, explains to Iraqi Army soldiers how to properly clear a room during training at Camp Taji, Iraq.

them build a company," he said.

Lewis, who is also helping the Iraqis set up a medical aid station, said he is impressed with the Iraqis progress.

Having worked several months with the Iraqis, James said he is confident of the abilities of the Iraqi troops and their training.

"Anytime we've done big, important coalition operations, the Iraqi troops have always accomplished their missions," said James. "We roll out with Iraqis many times a week to do patrols or check on troops in the area of operations and we feel as comfortable with them as we would rolling out with our own troops."

Operation Gladiator in Al Doura market 'sweeping' success for 2-12 Inf.

Market

From Page 1

rained into the police base making it clear that insurgents were in the area.

Staff Sgt. Dominic Nolan,

a squad leader with Company C, 2-12, said mortars were nothing new to him. His vehicle had been destroyed a few days earlier by three of them. Fortunately, he and his crew came away from the incident

unharmd - unlike their truck.

The Soldiers rolled out with their Iraqi counterparts to the market. As soon as they arrived, the work began.

They had to check every room in every building on the block they were assigned. Though they didn't know what to expect, they did know what they were looking for. Before they could clear the first block, they found several signs of insurgent activity.

Three unexploded artillery rounds were found inside one of the stores. As quickly as they found it, they cleared the building and called the explosive ordnance disposal team to come pick it up.

The Company C, "Chosen," made quick work of

the block they were assigned to clear.

Without missing a beat, the company moved on to the next block, then the next, until they completed almost five blocks of searching. It was five times the amount they had planned on doing, but the Soldiers finished nonetheless.

After more than 12 hours on the streets of the Al Doura marketplace, the troops' mission was complete and was deemed a success by their commander.

"One of the toughest parts now is getting in contact with the civic leaders and business owners to let them know things have changed," Michael said. "Once people see that it's safe, they'll start to come back."



(Photo by Spc. Alexis Harrison, 2-1 Cav. Public Affairs)

During an operation in the Al Doura market, Soldiers from the 2nd BCT, 2nd Inf. Div., find a man and his family still living in one of the many buildings.

Soldiers get Kid Rock for Christmas

By Pfc. Benjamin Gable
7th MPAD

CAMP LIBERTY, Iraq—Santa made a special delivery this year for Soldiers deployed in Iraq, dropping off one of the biggest rock stars in the world.

Kid Rock arrived at Baghdad International Airport early Christmas Eve starting his two-day tour of camps and forward operating bases in the war zone to meet Soldiers and spread holiday cheer. This was his second trip to Iraq in the past three years and Rock said he paid for a portion of the trip with his own money.

Rock's arrival was apparent as service members from the Army, Navy, Marines and Air Force packed a media room at Sather Air Base in Baghdad with collectibles to be autographed and cameras at the ready.

The tour called for Rock to visit to six FOBs and camps beginning at noon Christmas Eve and ending Christmas



(Photos by Pfc. Benjamin Gable, 7th MPAD)

Kid Rock serves lunch to U.S. troops on Christmas day in the International Zone in Baghdad, Iraq. The entertainer said he wanted to spend Christmas with the troops to lift morale and give back to Soldiers as well as set an example for his son.

night at Camp Liberty for the final meet and greet.

"I wanted to meet the guys protecting our country and making sacrifices so that we can enjoy our freedoms," he said. "I also wanted to set a positive example for my son."

With guitar in tow, Rock made his way to the next FOB.

When Rock arrived at FOB Prosperity in Baghdad's

International Zone, he was greeted by excited U.S. Soldiers screaming his name and up-armored vehicles playing his hits over the loudspeakers. Rock spent hours signing autographs and wishing every Soldier he met a Merry Christmas.

After meeting with U.S. Soldiers, Rock grabbed his guitar and played some of his favorite tunes for the packed houses.

Soldiers were excited to show off their pictures with Rock to their friends and anyone whom they could find.

"I'm a big fan of Kid Rock and I'll be sending these pictures home first thing," said Lt. Amanda Rodriguez, a military intelligence officer with Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division.

The next day, Christmas Day, had Rock spreading holiday cheer with hundreds more Soldiers.

Rock started the day's events by serving lunch to Soldiers and meeting as many troops as possible. Once again

Rock's fans packed every place he visited. While visiting FOB Rustamiyah and FOB Falcon, Rock walked around meeting with Soldiers and touring the grounds.

"I wanted to get a feel for what these troops are going through," Rock said. "I've never seen this much mud before in my life and it just shows how much these guys are doing for us."

The last stop on Rock's tour to spend Christmas with the troops was the Camp Liberty Morale, Welfare and Recreation Center.

Rock walked into the door and the room erupted with cheer and chants of "Kid Rock! Kid Rock!"

Soldiers in the packed gym waited in long lines for their chance to wish Rock a Merry Christmas.

When the tour came to an end, Rock posted hundreds of pictures of the Soldiers he met on his personal website and posted thanks to all the troops for their sacrifices and allowing all Americans to live in freedom.



Kid Rock signs a guitar for a Soldier at FOB Falcon, Christmas Day. Rock spent Christmas with deployed Soldiers taking the time to sign everything from shirts, compact discs and even combat patches.

Ohio State Buckeyes nothing but "Gator Bait"

**By Pfc. Benjamin Gable
7th MPAD**

The Ohio State Buckeyes and the Florida Gators play for the Bowl Championship Series National Championship Jan. 8 in Glendale, Ariz. Almost 75 percent of those polled say the Buckeyes will win the Tostitos BCS Championship game.

How can so many people be so wrong?

Even though the Gators and head coach Urban Meyer, are the underdogs and are on the short end of a 12-point spread, there is no need for the "Gator Nation" to worry. The Gators will win the national championship 29-24.

Here's the how and why.

Sure, the Buckeyes are the top ranked team in the nation and have the Heismann Trophy winner. What was his name again? Yes, they have a superior running game, a receiving corps that has put up impressive numbers, a stingy defense and all the hype in the world.

Let us not forget the most important aspect of Buckeye football that is far too often overlooked: they play in a bubble gum conference and a play

a schedule that wouldn't scare a Pop Warner team.

The Big Ten conference is a joke. Teams like Illinois, Indiana and that perennial powerhouse Northwestern couldn't compete for a championship in Division II. Sure, you have the Michigan Wolverines and then there's the tough Wisconsin Badgers, whom the Buckeyes didn't even play, but they had what amounts to a 9 week bye before playing the Wolverines, at home nonetheless, and still only won by three.

I refuse to credit the "Luckeyes" for beating the Texas Longhorns. We all saw how they turned out this year. The following games were against such great college football dynasties as Northern Illinois, Bowling Green and Cincinnati. The Buckeyes may as well schedule Southwestern College for the Homeless and play that game in the "Free Oscar Meyer Weiners for a Year" Bowl. Of course, that team and bowl game doesn't exist, but at least one team would have something to play for.

The Gators, on the other hand, play in the Southeastern



Pfc. Benjamin Gable

Conference. The SEC is consistently the toughest conference in the nation. No one disagrees with that. Florida must make its way through a schedule that includes the Auburn Tigers, the Tennessee Volunteers and the Florida State Seminoles, to name only a few.

After losing only one game in the SEC, the Gators still have to play for the SEC championship. They did just that and defeated the red-hot Arkansas Razorbacks. The Buckeyes have no conference championship game. If they did, we wouldn't be seeing them in Arizona because there is no way they could beat the Wolverines twice in one year.

Which brings us to the championship game.

The Buckeyes will give Florida a tough first quarter. Most championship games do start out with the two teams "feeling each other out" to see what each has planned. As the game wears on, the Gators will begin to pull away. The experience the Gator players received during the regular season will prove the deciding factor. The Gators will be used to the atmosphere and the feel of the "big game."

Meanwhile, the Buckeyes will be wishing they were back in the Big Ten playing the Indiana Hoosiers.

That is not to say it will be a blowout. The Gators may even fall behind early. They will, however, take the lead sometime in the third quarter and not look back. The Buckeyes will make it interesting scoring some late points, but won't be able to overcome the pressure.

Meyer and the Gators will hoist the championship trophy high and prove the "experts" wrong by winning their first championship since the departure of Steve Spurrier.

TELEVISION



	8:00p.m.	8:30p.m.	9:00p.m.	9:30p.m.	10:00p.m.	10:30p.m.	11:00p.m.
AFN sports	NFL Post Game	NFL Total Access		Sports Center	College Football Final		Sports Center
AFN prime ATLANTIC	College Football	ESPNNews	The McLaughlin Group	ESPNNews	Washington Week in Review	Your Total Health	The Entertainers
AFN news	The Journal Editorial Report	Beltway Boys	Larry King Live		The Line Up		CNN Presents